

**APPLICATION
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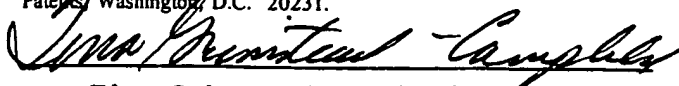
**TITLE: USING A HIGH LEVEL PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE WITH A
MICROCONTROLLER**

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Tina Grimstead-Campbell

USING A HIGH LEVEL PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE
WITH A MICROCONTROLLER

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Under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), this application claims
benefit of prior U.S. provisional application Serial No.
60/029,057, filed October 25, 1996.

15 Background of the Invention

This invention relates in general to the field of
programming, and more particularly to using a high level
programming language with a smart card or a microcontroller.

Software applications written in the Java high-level
20 programming language have been so designed that an
application written in Java can be run on many different
computer brands or computer platforms without change. This
is accomplished by the following procedure. When a Java
application is written, it is compiled into "Class" files
25 containing byte codes that are instructions for a
hypothetical computer called a Java Virtual Machine. An
implementation of this virtual machine is written for each
platform that is supported. When a user wishes to run a
particular Java application on a selected platform, the
30 class files compiled from the desired application is loaded
onto the selected platform. The Java virtual machine for
the selected platform is run, and interprets the byte codes
in the class file, thus effectively running the Java
application.

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Java is described in the following references which are hereby incorporated by reference: (1) Arnold, Ken, and James Gosling, "The Java Programming Language," Addison-Wesley, 1996; (2) James Gosling, Bill Joy, and Guy Steele, "The Java Language Specification," Sun Microsystems, 1996, (web site: http://java.sun.com/doc/language_specification); (3) James Gosling and Henry McGilton, "The Java Language Environment: A White Paper," Sun Microsystems, 1995 (web site: http://java.sun.com/doc/language_environment/); and (4) Tim Lindholm and Frank Yellin, "The Java Virtual Machine Specification," Addison-Wesley, 1997. These texts among many others describe how to program using Java.

In order for a Java application to run on a specific platform, a Java virtual machine implementation must be written that will run within the constraints of the platform, and a mechanism must be provided for loading the desired Java application on the platform, again keeping within the constraints of this platform.

Conventional platforms that support Java are typically microprocessor-based computers, with access to relatively large amounts of memory and hard disk storage space. Such microprocessor implementations frequently are used in desktop and personal computers. However, there are no conventional Java implementations on microcontrollers, as would typically be used in a smart card.

Microcontrollers differ from microprocessors in many ways. For example, a microprocessor typically has a central processing unit that requires certain external components (e.g., memory, input controls and output controls) to function properly. A typical microprocessor can access from a megabyte to a gigabyte of memory, and is capable of processing 16, 32, or 64 bits of information or more with a single instruction. In contrast to the microprocessor, a

microcontroller includes a central processing unit, memory and other functional elements, all on a single semiconductor substrate, or integrated circuit (e.g., a "chip"). As compared to the relatively large external memory accessed by the microprocessor, the typical microcontroller accesses a much smaller memory. A typical microcontroller can access one to sixty-four kilobytes of built-in memory, with sixteen kilobytes being very common.

There are generally three different types of memory used: random access memory (RAM), read only memory (ROM), and electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM). In a microcontroller, the amount of each kind of memory available is constrained by the amount of space on the integrated circuit used for each kind of memory. Typically, RAM takes the most space, and is in shortest supply. ROM takes the least space, and is abundant. EEPROM is more abundant than RAM, but less than ROM.

Each kind of memory is suitable for different purposes. Although ROM is the least expensive, it is suitable only for data that is unchanging, such as operating system code. EEPROM is useful for storing data that must be retained when power is removed, but is extremely slow to write. RAM can be written and read at high speed, but is expensive and data in RAM is lost when power is removed. A microprocessor system typically has relatively little ROM and EEPROM, and has 1 to 128 megabytes of RAM, since it is not constrained by what will fit on a single integrated circuit device, and often has access to an external disk memory system that serves as a large writable, non-volatile storage area at a lower cost than EEPROM. However, a microcontroller typically has a small RAM of 0.1 to 2.0 K, 2K to 8K of EEPROM, and 8K - 56K of ROM.

Due to the small number of external components required and their small size, microcontrollers frequently are used in integrated circuit cards, such as smart cards. Such smart cards come in a variety of forms, including

5 contact-based cards, which must be inserted into a reader to be used, and contactless cards, which need not be inserted. In fact, microcontrollers with contactless communication are often embedded into specialized forms, such as watches and rings, effectively integrating the functionality of a smart

10 card in an ergonomically attractive manner.

Because of the constrained environment, applications for smart cards are typically written in a low level programming language (e.g., assembly language) to conserve memory.

15 The integrated circuit card is a secure, robust, tamper-resistant and portable device for storing data. The integrated circuit card is the most personal of personal computers because of its small size and because of the hardware and software data security features unique to the

20 integrated circuit card.

The primary task of the integrated circuit card and the microcontroller on the card is to protect the data stored on the card. Consequently, since its invention in 1974, integrated circuit card technology has been closely

25 guarded on these same security grounds. The cards were first used by French banks as debit cards. In this application, before a financial transaction based on the card is authorized, the card user must demonstrate knowledge of a 4-digit personal identification number (PIN) stored in

30 the card in addition to being in possession of the card. Any information that might contribute to discovering the PIN number on a lost or stolen card was blocked from public distribution. In fact, since nobody could tell what

information might be useful in this regard, virtually all information about integrated circuit cards was withheld.

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5 Due to the concern for security, applications written for integrated circuit cards have unique properties. For example, each application typically is identified with a particular owner or identity. Because applications typically are written in a low-level programming language, such as assembly language, the applications are written for a particular type of microcontroller. Due to the nature of
10 low level programming languages, unauthorized applications may access data on the integrated circuit card. Programs written for a integrated circuit card are identified with a particular identity so that if two identities want to perform the same programming function there must be two
15 copies of some portions of the application on the microcontroller of the integrated circuit card.

Integrated circuit card systems have historically been closed systems. An integrated circuit card contained a dedicated application that was handcrafted to work with a
20 specific terminal application. Security checking when an integrated circuit card was used consisted primarily of making sure that the card application and the terminal application were a matched pair and that the data on the card was valid.

25 As the popularity of integrated circuit cards grew, it became clear that integrated circuit card users would be averse to carrying a different integrated circuit card for each integrated circuit card application. Therefore, multiple cooperating applications began to be provided on
30 single provider integrated circuit cards. Thus, for example, an automated teller machine (ATM) access card and a debit card may coexist on a single integrated circuit card platform. Nevertheless, this was still a closed system

since all the applications in the terminal and the card were built by one provider having explicit knowledge of the other providers.

5 The paucity of information about integrated circuit cards -- particularly information about how to communicate with them and how to program them -- has impeded the general application of the integrated circuit card. However, the advent of public digital networking (e.g., the Internet and the World Wide Web) has opened new domains of application
10 for integrated circuit cards. In particular, this has lead to a need to load new applications on the card that do not have explicit knowledge of the other providers, but without the possibility of compromising the security of the card. However, typically, this is not practical with conventional
15 cards that are programmed using low level languages.

Summary of the Invention

In general, in one aspect, the invention features an integrated circuit card for use with a terminal. The integrated circuit card includes a memory that stores an
20 interpreter and an application that has a high level programming language format. A processor of the card is configured to use the interpreter to interpret the application for execution and to use a communicator of the card to communicate with the terminal.

Sub A3 25 Among the advantages of the invention are one or more of the following. New applications may be downloaded to a smart card without compromising the security of the smart card. These applications may be provided by different companies loaded at different times using different
30 terminals. Security is not comprised since the applications are protected against unauthorized access of any application code or data by the security features provided by the Java

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virtual machine. Smart card applications can be created in high level languages such as Java and Eiffel, using powerful mainstream program development tools. New applications can be quickly prototyped and downloaded to a smart card in a matter of hours without resorting to soft masks. Embedded systems using microcontrollers can also gain many of these advantages for downloading new applications, high level program development, and rapid prototyping by making use of this invention.

10 Implementations of the invention may include one or more of the following. The high level programming language format of the application may have a class file format and may have a Java programming language format. The processor may be a microcontroller. At least a portion of the memory
15 may be located in the processor.

The application may have been processed from a second application that has a string of characters, and the string of characters may be represented in the first application by an identifier (e.g., an integer).

20 The processor may be also configured to receive a request from a requester (e.g., a processor or a terminal) to access an element (e.g., an application stored in the memory, data stored in the memory or the communicator) of the card, after receipt of the request, interact with the
25 requester to authenticate an identity of the requester, and based on the identity, selectively grant access to the element.

The memory may also store an access control list for the element. The access control list furnishes an
30 indication of types of access to be granted to the identity, and based on the access control list, the processor selectively grants specific types of access (e.g., reading

data, writing data, appending data, creating data, deleting data or executing an application) to the requester.

The application may be one of a several applications stored in the memory. The processor may be further

5 configured to receive a request from a requester to access one of the plurality of applications; after receipt of the request, determine whether said one of the plurality of applications complies with a predetermined set of rules; and based on the determination, selectively grant access to the
10 requester to said one of the plurality of applications. The predetermined rules provide a guide for determining whether said one of the plurality of applications accesses a predetermined region of the memory. The processor may be further configured to authenticate an identity of the
15 requester and grant access to said one of the plurality of applications based on the identity.

The processor may be also configured to interact with the terminal via the communicator to authenticate an identity; determine if the identity has been authenticated;
20 and based on the determination, selectively allow communication between the terminal and the integrated circuit card.

The communicator and the terminal may communicate via communication channels. The processor may also be
25 configured to assign one of the communication channels to the identity when the processor allows the communication between the terminal and the integrated circuit card. The processor may also be configured to assign a session key to the assigned communication channel and use the session key
30 when the processor and the terminal communicate via the assigned communication channel.

The terminal may have a card reader, and the communicator may include a contact for communicating with

the card reader. The terminal may have a wireless communication device, and the communicator may include a wireless transceiver for communicating with the wireless communication device. The terminal may have a wireless communication device, and the communicator may include a wireless transmitter for communicating with the wireless communication device.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a method for use with an integrated circuit card and a terminal. The method includes storing an interpreter and at least one application having a high level programming language format in a memory of the integrated circuit card. A processor of the integrated circuit card uses the interpreter to interpret the at least one application for execution, and the processor uses a communicator of the card when communicating between the processor and the terminal.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a smart card. The smart card includes a memory that stores a Java interpreter and a processor that is configured to use the interpreter to interpret a Java application for execution.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a microcontroller that has a semiconductor substrate and a memory located in the substrate. A programming language interpreter is stored in the memory and is configured to implement security checks. A central processing unit is located in the substrate and is coupled to the memory.

Implementations of the invention may include one or more of the following. The interpreter may be a Java byte code interpreter. The security checks may include establishing firewalls and may include enforcing a sandbox security model.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a smart card that has a programming language interpreter stored in a memory of the card. The interpreter is configured to implement security check. A central
5 processing unit of the card is coupled to the memory.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features an integrated circuit card that is used with a terminal. The card includes a communicator and a memory that stores an interpreter and first instructions of a first
10 application. The first instructions have been converted from second instructions of a second application. The integrated circuit card includes a processor that is coupled to the memory and is configured to use the interpreter to execute the first instructions and to communicate with the
15 terminal via the communicator.

Implementations of the invention may include one or more of the following. The first and/or second applications may have class file format(s). The first and/or second applications may include byte codes, such as Java byte
20 codes. The first instructions may be generalized or renumbered versions of the second instructions. The second instructions may include constant references, and the first instructions may include constants that replace the constant references of the second instructions. The second
25 instructions may include references, and the references may shift location during the conversion of the second instructions to the first instructions. The first instructions may be relinked to the references after the shifting. The first instructions may include byte codes for
30 a first type of virtual machine, and the second instructions may include byte codes for a second type of virtual machine. The first type is different from the second type.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a method for use with an integrated circuit card. The method includes converting second instructions of a second application to first instructions of a first
5 application; storing the first instructions in a memory of the integrated circuit card; and using an interpreter of the integrated circuit card to execute the first instructions.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features an integrated circuit for use with a terminal. The
10 integrated circuit card has a communicator that is configured to communicate with the terminal and a memory that stores a first application that has been processed from a second application having a string of characters. The string of characters are represented in the first
15 application by an identifier. The integrated circuit card includes a processor that is coupled to the memory. The processor is configured to use the interpreter to interpret the first application for execution and to use the communicator to communicate with the terminal.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a method for use with an integrated circuit card and a terminal. The method includes processing a second application to create a first application. The second application has a string of characters. The string of
20 characters is represented by an identifier in the second application. An interpreter and the first application are stored in a memory of the integrated circuit card. A processor uses an interpreter to interpret the first application for execution.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a microcontroller that includes a memory which stores an application and an interpreter. The application has a class file format. A processor of the microcontroller
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is coupled to the memory and is configured to use the interpreter to interpret the application for execution.

In implementations of the invention, the microcontroller may also include a communicator that is
5 configured to communicate with a terminal.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a method for use with an integrated circuit card. The method includes storing a first application in a memory of the integrated circuit card, storing a second application
10 in the memory of the integrated circuit card, and creating a firewall that isolates the first and second applications so that the second application cannot access either the first application or data associated with the first application.

In general, in another aspect, the invention
15 features an integrated circuit card for use with a terminal. The integrated circuit card includes a communicator that is configured to communicate with the terminal, a memory and a processor. The memory stores applications, and each application has a high level programming language format.
20 The memory also stores an interpreter. The processor is coupled to the memory and is configured to: a.) use the interpreter to interpret the applications for execution, b.) use the interpreter to create a firewall to isolate the applications from each other, and c.) use the communicator
25 to communicate with the terminal.

Other advantages and features will become apparent from the following description and from the claims.

Brief Description of the Drawing

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of an integrated card
30 system.

Fig. 2 is a flow diagram illustrating the preparation of Java applications to be downloaded to an integrated circuit card.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of the files used and
5 generated by the card class file converter.

Fig. 4 is a block diagram illustrating the transformation of application class file(s) into a card class file.

Fig. 5 is a flow diagram illustrating the working of
10 the class file converter.

Fig. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating the modification of the byte codes.

Fig. 7 is a block diagram illustrating the transformation of specific byte codes into general byte
15 codes.

Fig. 8 is a block diagram illustrating the replacement of constant references with constants.

Fig. 9 is a block diagram illustrating the replacement of references with their updated values.

Fig. 10 is a block diagram illustrating renumbering
20 of original byte codes.

Fig. 11 is a block diagram illustrating translation of original byte codes for a different virtual machine architecture.

Fig 12 is a block diagram illustrating loading
25 applications into an integrated circuit card.

Fig. 13 is a block diagram illustrating executing applications in an integrated circuit card.

Fig. 14 is a schematic diagram illustrating memory
30 organization for ROM, RAM and EEPROM.

Fig. 15 is a flow diagram illustrating the overall architecture of the Card Java virtual machine.

Fig. 16 is a flow diagram illustrating method execution in the Card Java virtual machine with the security checks.

Fig. 17 is a flow diagram illustrating byte code execution in the Card Java virtual machine.

Fig. 18 is a flow diagram illustrating method execution in the Card Java virtual machine without the security checks.

Fig. 19 is a block diagram illustrating the association between card applications and identities.

Fig. 20 is a block diagram illustrating the access rights of a specific running application.

Fig. 21 is a perspective view of a microcontroller on a smart card.

Fig. 22 is a perspective view of a microcontroller on a telephone.

Fig. 23 is a perspective view of a microcontroller on a key ring.

Fig. 24 is a perspective view of a microcontroller on a ring.

Fig. 25 is a perspective view of a microcontroller on a circuit card of an automobile.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring to Fig. 1, an integrated circuit card 10 (e.g., a smart card) is constructed to provide a high level, Java-based, multiple application programming and execution environment. The integrated circuit card 10 has a communicator 12a that is configured to communicate with a terminal communicator 12b of a terminal 14. In some embodiments, the integrated circuit card 10 is a smart card with an 8 bit microcontroller, 512 bytes of RAM, 4K bytes of EEPROM, and 20K of ROM; the terminal communicator 12b is a

conventional contact smart card reader; and the terminal 14 is a conventional personal computer running the Windows NT operating system supporting the personal computer smart card (PC/SC) standard and providing Java development support.

5 In some embodiments, the microcontroller, memory and communicator are embedded in a plastic card that has substantially the same dimensions as a typical credit card. In other embodiments, the microcontroller, memory and
10 card, such as jewelry (e.g., watches, rings or bracelets), automotive equipment, telecommunication equipment (e.g., subscriber identity module (SIM) cards), security devices (e.g., cryptographic modules) and appliances.

The terminal 14 prepares and downloads Java
15 applications to the integrated circuit card 10 using the terminal communicator 12b. The terminal communicator 12b is a communications device capable of establishing a communications channel between the integrated circuit card 10 and the terminal 14. Some communication options include
20 contact card readers, wireless communications via radio frequency or infrared techniques, serial communication protocols, packet communication protocols, ISO 7816 communication protocol, to name a few.

5444 25 The terminal 14 can also interact with applications running in the integrated circuit card 10. In some cases, different terminals may be used for these purposes. For example, one kind of terminal may be used to prepare applications, different terminals could be used to download the applications, and yet other terminals could be used to
30 run the various applications. Terminals can be automated teller machines (ATM)s, point-of-sale terminals, door security systems, toll payment systems, access control

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systems, or any other system that communicates with an integrated circuit card or microcontroller.

The integrated circuit card 10 contains a card Java virtual machine (Card JVM) 16, which is used to interpret applications which are contained on the card 10.

Referring to Fig. 2, the Java application 20 includes three Java source code files A.java 20a, B.java 20b, and C.java 20c. These source code files are prepared and compiled in a Java application development environment 22. When the Java application 20 is compiled by the development environment 22, application class files 24 are produced, with these class files A.class 24a, B.class 24b, and C.class 24c corresponding to their respective class Java source code 20a, 20b, and 20c. The application class files 24 follow the standard class file format as documented in chapter 4 of the Java virtual machine specification by Tim Lindholm and Frank Yellin, "The Java Virtual Machine Specification," Addison-Wesley, 1996. These application class files 24 are fed into the card class file converter 26, which consolidates and compresses the files, producing a single card class file 27. The card class file 27 is loaded to the integrated circuit card 10 using a conventional card loader 28.

Referring to Fig. 3, the card class file converter 26 is a class file postprocessor that processes a set of class files 24 that are encoded in the standard Java class file format, optionally using a string to ID input map file 30 to produce a Java card class file 27 in a card class file format. One such card class file format is described in Appendix A which is hereby incorporated by reference. In addition, in some embodiments, the card class file converter 26 produces a string to ID output map file 32 that is used

as input for a subsequent execution of the card class file converter.

In some embodiments, in order for the string to ID mapping to be consistent with a previously generated card class file (in the case where multiple class files reference the same strings), the card class file converter 26 can accept previously defined string to ID mappings from a string to ID input map file 30. In the absence of such a file, the IDs are generated by the card class file converter 26. Appendix B, which is hereby incorporated by reference, describes one possible way of implementing and producing the string to ID input map file 30 and string to ID output map file 32 and illustrates this mapping via an example.

Referring to Fig. 4, a typical application class file 24a includes class file information 41; a class constant pool 42; class, fields created, interfaces referenced, and method information 43; and various attribute information 44, as detailed in aforementioned Java Virtual Machine Specification. Note that much of the attribute information 44 is not needed for this embodiment and is eliminated 45 by the card class file converter 26. Eliminated attributes include SourceFile, ConstantValue, Exceptions, LineNumberTable, LocalVariableTable, and any optional vendor attributes. The typical card class file 27 as described in Appendix A is derived from the application class files 24 in the following manner. The card class file information 46 is derived from the aggregate class file information 41 of all application class files 24a, 24b, and 24c. The card class file constant pool 47 is derived from the aggregate class constant pool 42 of all application class files 24a, 24b, and 24c. The card class, fields created, interfaces referenced, and method information 48 is derived from the aggregate class, fields created, interfaces

referenced, and method information 43 of all application class files 24a, 24b, and 24c. The card attribute information 49 in this embodiment is derived from only the code attribute of the aggregate attribute information 44 of all application class files 24a, 24b, and 24c.

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To avoid dynamic linking in the card, all the information that is distributed across several Java class file 24a, 24b, and 24c that form the application 24, are coalesced into one card class file 27 by the process shown in the flowchart in Fig. 5. The first class file to be processed is selected 51a. The constant pool 42 is compacted 51b in the following manner. All objects, classes, fields, methods referenced in a Java class file 24a are identified by using strings in the constant pool 42 of the class file 24a. The card class file converter 26 compacts the constant pool 42 found in the Java class file 24a into an optimized version. This compaction is achieved by mapping all the strings found in the class file constant pool 42 into integers (the size of which is microcontroller architecture dependent). These integers are also referred to as IDs. Each ID uniquely identifies a particular object, class, field or method in the application 20. Therefore, the card class file converter 26 replaces the strings in the Java class file constant pool 42 with its corresponding unique ID. Appendix B shows an example application HelloSmartCard.java, with a table below illustrating the IDs corresponding to the strings found in the constant pool of the class file for this application. The IDs used for this example are 16-bit unsigned integers.

Next, the card class file converter 26 checks for unsupported features 51c in the Code attribute of the input Java class file 24a. The Card JVM 16 only supports a subset of the full Java byte codes as described in Appendix C,

which is hereby incorporated by reference. Hence, the card class file converter 26 checks for unsupported byte codes in the Code attribute of the Java class file 24a. If any unsupported byte codes are found 52, the card class file
5 converter flags an error and stops conversion 53. The program code fragment marked "A" in APPENDIX D shows how these spurious byte codes are apprehended. Another level of checking can be performed by requiring the standard Java development environment 22 to compile the application 20
10 with a '-g' flag. Based on the aforementioned Java virtual machine specification, this option requires the Java compiler to place information about the variables used in a Java application 20 in the LocalVariableTable attribute of the class file 24a. The card class file converter 26 uses
15 this information to check if the Java class file 24a references data types not supported by the Java card.

Next, the card class file converter 26 discards all the unnecessary parts 51c of the Java class file 24a not required for interpretation. A Java class file 24a stores
20 information pertaining to the byte codes in the class file in the Attributes section 44 of the Java class file. Attributes that are not required for interpretation by the card JVM 16, such as SourceFile, ConstantValue, Exceptions, LineNumberTable, and LocalVariableTable may be safely
25 discarded 45. The only attribute that is retained is the Code attribute. The Code attribute contains the byte codes that correspond to the methods in the Java class file 24a.

Modifying the byte codes 54 involves examining the Code attribute information 44 for each method in the class
30 file, and modifying the operands of byte codes that refer to entries in the Java class file constant pool 42 to reflect the entries in the card class file constant pool 47. In

some embodiments, the byte codes are also modified, as described below.

Modifying the byte codes 54 involves five passes (with two optional passes) as described by the flowchart in Fig. 6. The original byte codes 60 are found in the Code attribute 44 of the Java class file 24a being processed. The first pass 61 records all the jumps and their destinations in the original byte codes. During later byte code translation, some single byte code may be translated to dual or triple bytes. Fig. 7 illustrates an example wherein byte code ILOAD_0 is replaced with two bytes, byte code ILOAD and argument 0. When this is done, the code size changes, requiring adjustment of any jump destinations which are affected. Therefore, before these transformations are made, the original byte codes 60 are analyzed for any jump byte codes and a note made of their position and current destination. The program code fragment marked "B" in Appendix D shows how these jumps are recorded. Appendix D is hereby incorporated by reference.

Once the jumps are recorded, if the optional byte code translation is not being performed 62, the card class file converter 26 may proceed to the third pass 64.

Otherwise, the card class file converter converts specific byte codes into generic byte codes. Typically, the translated byte codes are not interpreted in the Card JVM 16 but are supported by converting the byte codes into equivalent byte codes that can be interpreted by the Card JVM 16 (see Fig. 7). The byte codes 70 may be replaced with another semantically equivalent but different byte codes 72. This generally entails the translation of short single specific byte codes such as ILOAD_0 into their more general versions. For example, ILOAD_0 may be replaced by byte code ILOAD with an argument 0. This translation is done to

reduce the number of byte codes translated by the Card JVM 16, consequently reducing the complexity and code space requirements for the Card JVM 16. The program code fragment marked "C" in Appendix D shows how these translations are made. Note that such translations increase the size of the resulting byte code and force the re-computation of any jumps which are affected.

10 In the third pass 64, the card class file converter rebuilds constant references via elimination of the strings used to denote these constants. Fig. 8 shows an example wherein the byte code LDC 80 referring to constant "18" found via an index in the Java class file 24a constant pool 42 may be translated into BIPUSH byte code 82. In this pass the card class file converter 26 modifies the operands to 15 all the byte codes that refer to entries in the Java class file constant pool 42 to reflect their new location in the card class file constant pool 47. Fig. 9 shows an example wherein the argument to a byte code, INVOKESTATIC 90, refers to an entry in the Java class file constant pool 42 that is 20 modified to reflect the new location of that entry in the card class file constant pool 47. The modified operand 94 shows this transformation. The program code fragment marked "D" in Appendix D shows how these modifications are made.

25 Once the constant references are relinked, if the optional byte code modification is not being performed, the card class file converter may proceed to the fifth and final pass 67.

30 Otherwise, the card class file converter modifies the original byte codes into a different set of byte codes supported by the particular Card JVM 16 being used. One potential modification renumbers the original byte codes 60 into Card JVM 16 byte codes (see Fig. 10). This renumbering causes the byte codes 100 in the original byte codes 60 to

be modified into a renumbered byte codes 102. Byte code ILOAD recognized by value 21 may be renumbered to be recognized by value 50. This modification may be done for optimizing the type tests (also known in prior art as Pass 3 checks) in the Card JVM 16. The program code fragment marked "E" in Appendix D shows an implementation of this embodiment. This modification may be done in order to reduce the program space required by the Card JVM 16 to interpret the byte code. Essentially this modification regroups the byte codes into Card JVM 16 byte codes so that byte codes with similar operands, results are grouped together, and there are no gaps between Card JVM 16 byte codes. This allows the Card JVM 16 to efficiently check Card JVM 16 byte codes and validate types as it executes.

In some embodiments, the card class file converter modifies the original byte codes 60 into a different set of byte codes designed for a different virtual machine architecture, as shown in Fig. 11. The Java byte code ILOAD 112 intended for use on a word stack 114 may be replaced by Card JVM 16 byte code ILOAD_B 116 to be used on a byte stack 118. An element in a word stack 114 requires allocating 4 bytes of stack space, whereas an element in the byte stack 118 requires only one byte of stack space. Although this option may provide an increase in execution speed, it risks losing the security features available in the original byte codes.

Since the previous steps 63, 64 or 66 may have changed the size of the byte codes 60 the card class file converter 26 has to relink 67 any jumps which have been effected. Since the jumps were recorded in the first step 61 of the card class file converter 26, this adjustment is carried out by fixing the jump destinations to their

appropriate values. The program code fragment marked "F" in Appendix D shows how these jumps are fixed.

The card class file converter now has modified byte codes 68 that is equivalent to the original byte codes 60 ready for loading. The translation from the Java class file 24a to the card class file 27 is now complete.

Referring back to Fig. 5, if more class files 24 remain to be processed 55 the previous steps 51a, 51b, 51c, 52 and 54 are repeated for each remaining class file. The card class file converter 26 gathers 56 the maps and modified byte codes for the classes 24 that have been processed, places them as an aggregate and generates 57 a card class file 27. If required, the card class file converter 26 generates a string to ID output map file 32, that contains a list of all the new IDs allocated for the strings encountered in the constant pool 42 of the Java class files 24 during the translation.

Referring to Fig. 12, the card loader 28 within the terminal 14 sends a card class file to the loading and execution control 120 within the integrated circuit card 10 using standard ISO 7816 commands. The loading and execution control 120 with a card operating system 122, which provides the necessary system resources, including support for a card file system 124, which can be used to store several card applications 126. Many conventional card loaders are written in low level languages, supported by the card operating system 122. In the preferred embodiment, the bootstrap loader is written in Java, and the integrated circuit card 10 includes a Java virtual machine to run this application. A Java implementation of the loading and execution control 120 is illustrated in Appendix E which is hereby incorporated by reference. The loading and execution control 120 receives the card class file 26 and produces a

Java card application 126x stored in the card file system 126 in the EEPROM of the integrated circuit card 10.

Multiple Java card applications 126x, 126y, and 126z can be stored in a single card in this manner. The loading and

5 execution control 120 supports commands whereby the terminal 14 can select which Java card application to run immediately, or upon the next card reset.

Referring to Fig. 13, upon receiving a reset or an execution command from the loading and execution control
10 120, the Card Java Virtual Machine (Card JVM) 16 begins execution at a predetermined method (for example, main) of the selected class in the selected Java Card application 126z. The Card JVM 16 provides the Java card application 126z access to the underlying card operating system 122,
15 which provides capabilities such as I/O, EEPROM support, file systems, access control, and other system functions using native Java methods as illustrated in Appendix F which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The selected Java card application 126z communicates
20 with an appropriate application in the terminal 14 using the communicator 12a to establish a communication channel to the terminal 14. Data from the communicator 12a to the terminal 14 passes through a communicator driver 132 in the terminal, which is specifically written to handle the communications
25 protocol used by the communicator 12a. The data then passes to an integrated circuit card driver 134, which is specifically written to address the capabilities of the particular integrated circuit card 10 being used, and provides high level software services to the terminal
30 application 136. In the preferred embodiment, this driver would be appropriate PC/SC Smartcard Service Provider (SSP) software. The data then passes to the terminal application 136, which must handle the capabilities provided by the

interface to the card operating system 122. This interface is provided by a class library 140b stored in Card ROM 140, by a loadable class library 141c stored in Card EEPROM 142. One such interface is described in Appendix F. Applications and data in the card are isolated by a firewall mechanism 149.

To cope with the limited resources available on microcontrollers, the Card JVM 16 implements a strict subset of the Java programming language. Consequently, a Java application 20 compiles into a class file that contains a strict subset of Java byte codes. This enables application programmers to program in this strict subset of Java and still maintain compatibility with existing Java Virtual Machines. The semantics of the Java byte codes interpreted by the Card JVM 16 are described in the aforementioned Java Virtual Machine Specification. The subset of byte codes interpreted by the Card JVM 16 can be found in Appendix C. The card class file converter 26 checks the Java application 20 to ensure use of only the features available in this subset and converts into a form that is understood and interpreted by the Card JVM 16.

In other embodiments, the Card JVM 16 is designed to interpret a different set or augmented set of byte codes 116. Although a different byte code set might lead to some performance improvements, departing from a strict Java subset may not be desirable from the point of view of security that is present in the original Java byte codes or compatibility with mainstream Java development tools.

All Card JVM 16 applications 126 have a defined entry point denoted by a class and a method in the class. This entry point is mapped in the string to ID input map 30 and assigned by the card class file converter 26. Classes, methods and fields within a Java application 20 are assigned

IDs by the card class file converter 26. For example, the ID corresponding to the main application class may be defined as F001 and the ID corresponding to its main method, such as "main()V" could be defined as F002.

5 The overall execution architecture of the Card JVM is described by the flowchart in Fig. 15. Execution of the Card JVM 16 begins at the execution control 120, which chooses a card application 126z to execute. It proceeds by finding and assigning an entry point 152 (a method) in this
10 card application for the Card JVM 16 to interpret. The Card JVM 16 interprets the method 153. If the interpretation proceeds successfully 154, the Card JVM 16 reports success 155 returning control back to the execution control 120. If in the course of interpretation 153 the Card JVM 16
15 encounters an unhandled error or exception (typically a resource limitation or a security violation), the Card JVM 16 stops 156 and reports the appropriate error to the terminal 14.

20 An essential part of the Card JVM 16 is a subroutine that handles the execution of the byte codes. This subroutine is described by the flowchart in Fig. 16. Given a method 160 it executes the byte codes in this method. The subroutine starts by preparing for the parameters of this method 161. This involves setting the VM stack 144a
25 pointer, VM stack 144a frame limits, and setting the program counter to the first byte code of the method.

30 Next, the method flags are checked 162. If the method is flagged native, then the method is actually a call to native method code (subroutine written in the microcontroller's native processor code). In this case, the Card JVM 16 prepares for an efficient call 163 and return to the native code subroutine. The parameters to the native method may be passed on the VM stack 144a or via the System

stack 148. The appropriate security checks are made and the native method subroutine is called. On return, the result (if any) of the native method subroutine is placed on the VM stack 144a so that it may be accessed by the next byte code
5 to be executed.

The dispatch loop 164 of the Card JVM 16 is then entered. The byte code dispatch loop is responsible for preparing, executing, and retiring each byte code. The loop terminates when it finishes interpreting the byte codes in
10 the method 160, or when the Card JVM 16 encounters a resource limitation or a security violation.

If a previous byte code caused a branch to be taken 165 the Card JVM prepares for the branch 165a. The next byte code is retrieved 165b. In order to keep the cost of
15 processing each byte code down, as many common elements such as the byte code arguments, length, type are extracted and stored.

To provide the security offered by the security model of the programming language, byte codes in the class
20 file must be verified and determined conformant to this model. These checks are typically carried out in prior art by a program referred to as the byte code verifier, which operates in four passes as described in the Java Virtual Machine Specification. To offer the run-time security that
25 is guaranteed by the byte code verifier, the Card JVM 16 must perform the checks that pertain to the Pass 3 and Pass 4 of the verifier. This checking can be bypassed by the Card JVM 16 if it can be guaranteed (which is almost impossible to do) that the byte codes 60 interpreted by the
30 Card JVM 16 are secure. At the minimum, code security can be maintained as long as object references cannot be faked and the VM stack 144a and local variable bounds are observed.

This requires checking the state of the VM stack 144a with respect to the byte code being executed.

To enforce the security model of the programming language, a 256-byte table is created as shown in Appendix G which is hereby incorporated by reference. This table is indexed by the byte code number. This table contains the type and length information associated with the indexing byte code. It is encoded with the first 5 bits representing type, and the last 3 bits representing length. The type and length of the byte code is indexed directly from the table by the byte code number. This type and length is then used for checking as shown in Appendix H which is hereby incorporated by reference. In Appendix H, the checking process begins by decoding the length and type from the table in Appendix G which is hereby incorporated by reference. The length is used to increment the program counter. The type is used first for pre-execution checking, to insure that the data types on the VM stack 144a are correct for the byte code that is about to be executed. The 256 bytes of ROM for table storage allows the original Java byte codes to be run in the Card JVM 16 and minimizes the changes required to the Java class file to be loaded in the card. Additional Java byte codes can be easily supported since it is relatively easy to update the appropriate table entries.

In other embodiments, as shown in Fig. 10, the Java byte codes in the method are renumbered in such a manner that the byte code type and length information stored in the table in Appendix H is implicit in the reordering. Appendix H is hereby incorporated by reference. Consequently, the checks that must be performed on the state of the VM stack 144a and the byte code being processed does not have to involve a table look up. The checks can be performed by set

of simple comparisons as shown in Appendix I which is hereby incorporated by reference. This embodiment is preferable when ROM space is at a premium, since it eliminates a 256-byte table. However adding new byte codes to the set of supported byte codes has to be carefully thought out since the new byte codes have to fit in the implicit numbering scheme of the supported byte codes.

In another embodiment, the Card JVM 16 chooses not to perform any security checks in favor of Card JVM 16 execution speed. This is illustrated in the flowchart in Fig. 18. The flow chart in Fig. 18 is the same as that of Fig. 16 with the security checks removed. This option is not desirable from the point of view of security, unless it can be guaranteed that the byte codes are secure.

The Card JVM 16 may enforce other security checks as well. If the byte code may reference a local variable, the Card JVM 16 checks if this reference is valid, throwing an error if it is not. If the reference is valid, the Card JVM 16 stores the type of the local variable for future checking. The VM stack 144a pointer is checked to see if it is still in a valid range. If not an exception is thrown. The byte code number is checked. If it is not supported, an exception is thrown.

Finally, the byte code itself is dispatched 165d. The byte codes translated by the Card JVM 16 are listed in Appendix C. The semantics of the byte codes are described in the aforementioned Java Virtual Machine Specification with regard to the state of the VM stack 144a before and after the dispatch of the byte code. Note also that some byte codes (the byte codes, INVOKESTATIC, INVOKESPECIAL, INVOKENONVIRTUAL and INVOKEVIRTUAL) may cause reentry into the Card JVM 16, requiring processing to begin at the entry of the subroutine 161. Fig. 17 shows the flowchart of the

byte code execution routine. The routine is given a byte code 171 to execute. The Card JVM 16 executes 172 the instructions required for the byte code. If in the course of executing the Card JVM 16 encounters a resource

- 5 limitation 173, it returns an error 156. This error is returned to the terminal 16 by the Card JVM 16. If the byte code executes successfully, it returns a success 175.

- After execution, the type of the result is used to set the VM stack 144a state correctly 165e, properly
10 flagging the data types on the VM stack 144a. The byte code information gathered previously 165b from the byte code info table is used to set the state of the VM stack 144a in accordance with the byte code that just executed.

- In other embodiments, setting the output state of
15 the VM stack 144a with respect to the byte code executed is simplified if the byte code is renumbered. This is shown in Appendix I which is hereby incorporated by reference.

- In yet another embodiment, the Card JVM 16 may bypass setting the output state of the VM stack 144a in
20 favor of Card JVM 16 execution speed. This option is not desirable from the point of view of security, unless it can be guaranteed that the byte codes are secure.

- After the byte code has been executed, the byte code is retired 165f. This involves popping arguments off the VM
25 stack 144a. Once byte code processing is completed, the loop 164 is repeated for the next byte code for the method.

- Once the dispatch loop 164 terminates, the VM stack 144a is emptied 166. This prevents any object references filtering down to other Card JVM 16 invocations and breaking
30 the Card JVM's 16 security. Termination 167 of the byte code dispatch loop 164 indicates that the Card JVM 16 has completed executing the requested method.

To isolate data and applications in the integrated circuit card 10 from each other, the integrated circuit card 10 relies on the firewall mechanism 149 provided by the Card JVM 16. Because the Card JVM implements the standard pass 3 and pass 4 verifier checks, it detects any attempt by an application to reference the data or code space used by another application, and flag a security error 156. For example, conventional low level applications can cast non-reference data types into references, thereby enabling access to unauthorized memory space, and violating security. With this invention, such an attempt by a card application 126z to use a non-reference data type as a reference will trigger a security violation 156. In conventional Java, this protected application environment is referred to as the sandbox application-interpretation environment.

However, these firewall facilities do not work independently. In fact, the facilities are overlapping and mutually reinforcing with conventional access control lists and encryption mechanisms shown in the following table:

	Access Control Lists	Virtual Machine	Encryption
Data Protection	access control before operation	access only to own namespace	data to another program encrypted
Program Protection	access control before execution	execution only on correct types	data encrypted in program's namespace
Communication Protection	access control on channels	channel controls in own namespace	only mutually authenticated parties can communicate

Taken together, these facilities isolate both data and applications on the integrated circuit card 10 and ensure that each card application 126 can access only the authorized resources of the integrated circuit card 10.

5 Referring to Fig. 19, card applications 126x, 126y, 126z can be endowed with specific privileges when the card applications 126 execute. These privileges determine, for example, which data files the card applications 126 can
10 access and what operations the card applications 126 can perform on the file system 147. The privileges granted to the card applications 126 are normally set at the time that a particular card application 126z is started by the user, typically from the terminal 14.

The integrated circuit card 10 uses cryptographic
15 identification verification methods to associate an identity 190 (e.g., identities 190a, 190b and 190c) and hence, a set of privileges to the execution of the card application 126. The association of the specific identity 190c to the card application 126z is made when the card application 126z
20 begins execution, thus creating a specific running application 200, as shown in Fig. 20. The identity 190 is a unique legible text string reliably associated with an identity token. The identity token (e.g., a personal identification number (PIN) or a RSA private key) is an
25 encryption key.

Referring to Fig. 20, in order to run a specific card application 126z, the identity 190c of the card application 126z must be authenticated. The identity 190c is authenticated by demonstrating knowledge of the identity
30 token associated with the identity 190c. Therefore, in order to run the card application 126z, an agent (e.g., a card holder or another application wishing to run the

application) must show that it possesses or knows the application's identity-defining encryption key.

One way to demonstrate possession of an encryption key is simply to expose the key itself. PIN verification is
5 an example of this form of authentication. Another way to demonstrate the possession of an encryption key without actually exposing the key itself is to show the ability to encrypt or decrypt plain text with the key.

Thus, a specific running application 200 on the
10 integrated circuit card 10 includes a card application 126z plus an authenticated identity 190c. No card application 126 can be run without both of these elements being in place. The card application 126z defines data processing operations to be performed, and the authenticated identity
15 190c determines on what computational objects those operations may be performed. For example, a specific application 126z can only access identity C's files 202 in the file system 147 associated with the specific identity 190c, and the specific card application 126z cannot access
20 other files 204 that are associated with identities other than the specific identity 190c.

The integrated circuit card 10 may take additional steps to ensure application and data isolation. The integrated circuit card 10 furnishes three software features
25 sets: authenticated-identity access control lists; a Java-based virtual machine; and one-time session encryption keys to protect data files, application execution, and communication channels, respectively. Collectively, for one embodiment, these features sets provide the application data
30 firewalls 149 for one embodiment. The following discusses each software feature set and then shows how the three sets work together to insure application and data isolation on the integrated circuit card 10.

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An access control list (ACL) is associated with every computational object (e.g., a data file or a communication channel) on the integrated circuit card 10 that is to be protected, i.e., to which access is to be controlled. An entry on an ACL (for a particular computational object) is in a data format referred to as an e-tuple:

type:identity:permissions

The type field indicates the type of the following identity (in the identity field), e.g., a user (e.g., "John Smith"), or a group. The permissions field indicates a list of operations (e.g., read, append and update) that can be performed by the identity on the computational object.

As an example, for a data file that has the ACL entry:

USER:AcmeAirlines:RAU,

any application whose identity is "AcmeAirlines" can read ("R"), append ("A") and update ("U") the data file. In addition, the ACL may be used selectively to permit the creation and deletion of data files. Furthermore, the ACL may be used selectively to permit execution of an application.

Whenever a computational object is accessed by a running application 200, the access is intercepted by the Card JVM 16 and passed to the card operating system 122, which determines if there is an ACL associated with the object. If there is an associated ACL, then the identity 190c associated with the running application 200 is matched on the ACL. If the identity is not found or if the identity is not permitted for the type of access that is being requested, then the access is denied. Otherwise, the access is allowed to proceed.

Referring to Fig. 13, to prevent the potential problems due to the single data path between the integrated circuit card 10 and the terminal 14, communication channel isolation is accomplished by including in the identity authentication process the exchange of a one-time session key 209 between the a card application 126z and the terminal application 136. The key 209 is then used to encrypt subsequent traffic between the authenticating terminal application 136 and the authenticated card application 126z. Given the one-time session key 209, a rogue terminal application can neither "listen in" on an authenticated communication between the terminal 14 and the integrated circuit card 10, nor can the rogue terminal application "spoof" the card application into performing unauthorized operations on its behalf.

Encryption and decryption of card/terminal traffic can be handled either by the card operating system 122 or by the card application itself 126z. In the former case, the communication with the terminal 14 is being encrypted transparently to the application, and message traffic arrives decrypted in the data space of the application. In the latter case, the card application 126z elects to perform encryption and decryption to provide an extra layer of security since the application could encrypt data as soon as it was created and would decrypt data only when it was about to be used. Otherwise, the data would remain encrypted with the session key 209.

Thus, the application firewall includes three mutually reinforcing software sets. Data files are protected by authenticated-identity access control lists. Application execution spaces are protected by the Card JVM 16. Communication channels are protected with one-time session encryption keys 209.

In other embodiments, the above-described techniques are used with a microcontroller (such as the processor 12) may control devices (e.g., part of an automobile engine) other than an integrated circuit card. In these

5 applications, the microcontroller provides a small platform (i.e., a central processing unit, and a memory, both of which are located on a semiconductor substrate) for storing and executing high level programming languages. Most existing devices and new designs that utilize a
10 microcontroller could use this invention to provide the ability to program the microcontroller using a high level language, and application of this invention to such devices is specifically included.

The term application includes any program, such as
15 Java applications, Java applets, Java aglets, Java servlets, Java commllets, Java components, and other non-Java programs that can result in class files as described below.

Class files may have a source other than Java program files. Several programming languages other than
20 Java also have compilers or assemblers for generating class files from their respective source files. For example, the programming language Eiffel can be used to generate class files using Pirmin Kalberer's "J-Eiffel", an Eiffel compiler with JVM byte code generation (web site:
25 <http://www.spin.ch/~kalberer/jive/index.htm>). An Ada 95 to Java byte code translator is described in the following reference (incorporated herein by reference): Taft, S. Tucker, "Programming the Internet in Ada 95", proceedings of Ada Europe '96, 1996. Jasmin is a Java byte code assembler
30 that can be used to generate class files, as described in the following reference (incorporated herein by reference): Meyer, Jon and Troy Downing, "Java Virtual Machine", O'Reilly, 1997. Regardless of the source of the class

files, the above description applies to languages other than Java to generate codes to be interpreted.

Fig. 21 shows an integrated circuit card, or smart card, which includes a microcontroller 210 that is mounted to a plastic card 212. The plastic card 212 has approximately the same form factor as a typical credit card. The communicator 12a can use a contact pad 214 to establish a communication channel, or the communicator 12a can use a wireless communication system.

In other embodiments, a microcontroller 210 is mounted into a mobile or fixed telephone 220, effectively adding smart card capabilities to the telephone, as shown in Fig. 22. In these embodiments, the microcontroller 210 is mounted on a module (such as a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM)), for insertion and removal from the telephone 220.

In other embodiments, a microcontroller 210 is added to a key ring 230 as shown in Fig. 23. This can be used to secure access to an automobile that is equipped to recognize the identity associated with the microcontroller 210 on the key ring 230.

Jewelry such as a watch or ring 240 can also house a microcontroller 210 in an ergonomic manner, as shown in Fig. 24. Such embodiments typically use a wireless communication system for establishing a communication channel, and are a convenient way to implement access control with a minimum of hassle to the user.

Fig. 25 illustrates a microcontroller 210 mounted in an electrical subsystem 252 of an automobile 254. In this embodiment, the microcontroller is used for a variety of purposes, such as to controlling access to the automobile, (e.g. checking identity or sobriety before enabling the ignition system of the automobile), paying tolls via wireless communication, or interfacing with a global

positioning system (GPS) to track the location of the automobile, to name a few.

While specific embodiments of the present invention have been described, various modifications and substitutions
5 will become apparent to one skilled in the art by this disclosure. Such modifications and substitutions are within the scope of the present invention, and are intended to be covered by the appended claims.

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